

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. Because we have had enough of corporate fraud! Enron ring a bell. Most people just pay their phone bills because half the time they do not understand all the fcc charges, connection fees etc...I check mine always there is always hidden charges that they apply that are illegal. For instance long distance companies will add 5.00 to 7.00 in charges that you do not ask for. They say it is to use thier companies so you can call long distance even though you did not sign up or approve it. The telephone company tells you that you have to contact these companies personally to remove these charges. It took me a month to get these charges off my bill. I even had to tell my phone service which is bellsouth that I was disputing these charges. So they could not charge me for any kind of late fees for not paying these seperate charges. Which were sprint,MCI,there was another major company I cannot think of there name. So check your phone bill if you did not ask for these long distance carriers to charge you a fee. Tell your phone company you are disputing the charges. Call these companies and have them remove the charges. Credit card companies to the same thing. They allow companies to put charges on you did not ask for. Mine had a 8.00 charge and a 4.00 charge. one was for credit card protection, which is not through the people you have your card with it is an independent company. The credit card cannot remove the charge you have to call the number that is beside the charge. They say you cashed a check which allowed them to activate the charge. which is a bunch of bull. They do send out checks, I never cashed a one. It is just a loop hole that allows them to do this. If you have shopped online before, there is a company called shoppers alliance which puts a 4.00 charge on your credit card. They say it is a internet fee. It is truly amazing what you pay to these companies without knowing it. Here is the kicker the credit card account that I recieved the bill from had been closed for over 6 months. When I called the credit card company they could no explain how this ocured. Not only that the annual percentage rate it showed was a 105.44% on an account that was closed and the total bill was 14.50. So check yor credit regularly it is becoming a dangerous world of fraud. Once it happens the government won't do anything to help you. Except I did see on the news last night that thousands of social sercurity numbers where stolen from the bank of american which alot of our senators and government officals use. So now maybe they will see how it feels when someone steals your Identity and they will do something about this ever growing theft.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.